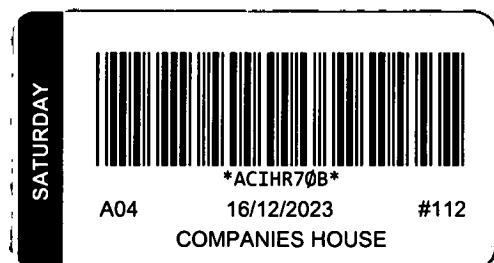


The Cotswold School Academy Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Accounting period ending 31 August 2023



Company Registration Number:
07338767 (England and Wales)

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The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Members	Mrs A Everitt Mr R Hadley Mrs L Rowley
Trustees	Mr A Parker (Chair) Mrs R Havill (Vice Chair) Dr R Emsley (resigned 24-03-23) Dr G Hadley Mrs F Heming Mr N Hartnell Mr B Backhouse Mrs K Scott Mrs Lucy Morrison Mrs Jenny Birrell (resigned 12-09-2023) Mr Daniel Souch Mrs J Griffin (appointed 14-10-22) Mr A Burgess (appointed 26-01-23) Mr J Evanson (appointed 26-01-23) Mr W Morgan (Principal and Accounting Officer) C Lamb (Staff Trustee) Mrs F Peake (Staff Trustee) Mrs J Powell (Joint Clerk) Mrs R Moser (Joint Clerk)
Senior Management Team	
Principal	Mr W Morgan
Vice principal	Mr P White (Associate Governor)
Assistant principal	Mr S Smith
Assistant principal	Mr B Edwards
Assistant principal	Dr M Scantlebury
Assistant principal	Mrs J Carter
Operations Manager	Mr T Redding
Finance	
Chief Financial Officer	Mrs M Tye (Associate Governor)
Company Name	The Cotswold School Academy Trust
Principal and Registered Office	The Avenue, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire GL54 2BD
Company Registration Number	07338767 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	Hazlewoods LLP Staverton Court, Staverton Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 0UX
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC, High Street, Moreton in Marsh Gloucestershire, GL56 0AY
Solicitors	Kendall & Davies Ltd, Cheltenham House, The Square, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1AB

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 18 serving a catchment area in south Gloucestershire, and had a roll of 1,422 in the school census of October 2022 (October 2021: 1,408).

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Cotswold School Academy Trust was established on 6 August 2010 as a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity, and converted to Academy status on 6 September 2010. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association for Academies, together with the Funding Agreement dated 19 August 2010 and supplementary Deed of Variation dated 23 July 2013 entered into with the Secretary of State for Education are the primary governing documents of The Cotswold School Academy Trust.

The Academy Trust is also known as The Cotswold School, and The Cotswold Academy.

The Trustees of The Cotswold School Academy Trust are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as The Cotswold School Academy Trust or The Cotswold Academy.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the period, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 3.

Members' Liability

There are three Members of the Academy Trust (Mr R Hadley, Mrs A Everitt and Mrs L Rowley) as at 31st August 2023 who undertake to contribute to the assets of the Charitable Company in the event of it being wound up while they are a Member, or within one year after they cease to be a Member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a Member. Mrs F Hudson and Mr A Parker were appointed Members following the AGM on 11th September 2023.

Trustees' Indemnities

The Academy has insurance cover in force for Trustees' liability. The indemnity limit is £5,000,000.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

Regard is given to the skills mix of the Trustees to ensure that the Board of Trustees has all the necessary skills required to contribute fully to the Academy's development.

The Board of Trustees of The Cotswold School Academy Trust resolves to have the following categories of Trustee who are recruited and elected as follows:

a) Parent

Subject to Articles 50-58 of the Articles of Association. The Board of Trustees takes such steps as are reasonably practical to ensure that every person who is known to them to be a parent of a registered pupil at the Academy is informed of the vacancy and that it is required to be filled by election, informed that he/she is entitled to stand as a candidate, and vote at the election, and given opportunity to do so.

This is usually done via an email from the Principal and Clerk to the parent e-mail addresses of all registered pupils, accompanied by a nomination form. Parents may self-nominate. Nominations must be received at a stipulated time on a stipulated day. Ballot papers / Survey Monkey link are then sent to registered pupils' homes outlining candidate credentials. Completed ballot papers are requested to be returned to The Clerk to the Board of Trustees by midday on a set date (at least 6 days but approximately 10 calendar days from the day ballot papers are sent).

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

The Parent Trustee may only be elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent Trustee must be a parent of a pupil at the Academy at the time when he/she is elected. The Clerk to the Board of Trustees tallies the votes received by ballot paper / online survey and the nominee polling the majority of votes is duly elected. The Clerk to the Board of Trustees publishes the results.

b) Community, Partnership and Staff

For all cases, these Trustee candidates are nominated by a current Trustee. Nominations must be seconded by another serving member of the Board of Trustees. If the nomination is not contested, a vote is given by a show of hands. In the case where a vacancy is contested (there is more than one candidate), the nominees if present leave the meeting and votes are made by secret ballot. Votes are counted by the Clerk to the Board of Trustees who announces the results. The nominee polling the majority of votes is duly elected. The nominee(s) return to the meeting and are informed of the result by The Chair. Trustees must be present at a meeting in order to cast their vote.

The Board of Trustees resolves to have positions of special responsibility for Trustees, in addition to the above categories. These specialist responsibilities include but are not limited to: Performance Management, SEND, Careers, Academy Council Link, Health and Safety, Child Protection/Safeguarding, Wellbeing.

c) Local Authority (LA)

The Board of Trustees may also have a LA Trustee post. The Local Authority must approve that LA Trustee (ref: Articles 51 and 138, Articles of Association).

Recruiting the Chair of Trustees and Vice Chair roles

The Clerk to the Board of Trustees chairs the meeting for the item to elect the Chair. The Chair takes over the meeting, once elected, including the item to elect the Vice-Chair.

A Trustee who is paid to work at the Academy or is a pupil at the Academy is not eligible for the office of Chair or Vice-Chair. The Academy's Board of Trustees resolves that the following process will apply to the election of Chair and Vice-Chair:

Trustees will be able to submit written nominations prior to the Board of Trustees and verbal nominations at the meeting. A Trustee can nominate him/herself for office and does not need to be present at the meeting to be considered.

Trustees must be present at a meeting in order to cast their vote. During an election, nominee(s) may be asked to leave the room whilst the election process takes place. If there is more than one nominee, the remaining Trustees will vote by secret ballot. The Clerk will tally the votes.

The nominee(s) will return to the meeting. The Clerk will announce the result, with the nominee polling the majority of votes being duly elected.

If there is a tie, each candidate will be given the opportunity to speak to the Trustees about their nomination and a further vote by secret ballot would be taken.

If there is still a tie, Trustees should discuss the strengths of the nominees further, and another vote will be taken. This process will repeat until a nominee polls a majority of the votes.

The agreed term for all Trustee categories is four years save that this time limit shall not apply to the Principal. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

Mrs J Powell (Clerk) aided by Mrs Rosie Moser, Mr W Morgan and Mr A Parker has been nominated as the 'Link' responsible for Trustee induction and training and has arranged for each Trustee to receive the Academy's Governor Handbook. Gloucestershire County Council Governor Services offers training days for those requiring them.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees meets at least six times a year to receive reports from its committees and manage its strategic objectives. A programme of work is agreed in the first Board of Trustees meeting in the academic year that ensures there is robust governance and effective management arrangements. This also ensures timely reporting into the main Board of Trustees meetings.

The Board of Trustees has five main committees:

- 1) Finance, Audit and Risk Committee – which meets 4 to 5 times a year and at least once in the autumn, spring and summer terms to consider the annual budget, management accounts and other financial matters.
- 2) Premises Committee - which meets 4 times a year and at least once in the autumn, spring and summer terms to consider estates issues, compliance, capital projects and short and long term estate priorities.
- 3) Teaching and Learning Committee – which meets 4 times a year and at least once in the autumn, spring and summer terms to consider curriculum issues.
- 4) Welfare & Wellbeing - which meets 4 times a year and at least once in the autumn, spring and summer terms to consider any wellbeing issues for both staff and pupils. It is very pertinent given the physical and mental health implications of the recent pandemic and current cost of living crisis.
- 5) Pay & Performance – which meets 3 times a year and at least once in the autumn, spring and summer terms to consider all matters relating to the pay and related performance of staff (see below).

The Board has three other committees that are convened as required:

- Pupil Discipline Committee
- Staff Grievance Committee
- Principal's Performance Management

The day-to-day management is delegated to the Principal as laid out in the Governors' Scheme of Delegation document. The Principal and Trustees have appointed a senior leadership team comprising the Principal, one Vice Principals and five Assistant Principals. The Principal meets regularly with the Chief Financial Officer to ensure that the Academy operates within its funding levels. The Principal is the appointed Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Pay and Performance Committee is authorised by the Governing Body to determine all matters relating to the pay and related performance of staff, to establish a whole school pay policy for adoption by the Governing Body and to monitor and review the pay policy as necessary. The Pay and Performance Committee has delegated powers to:

- Ensure that Performance Management, Pay Policy and Staff Absence Policies are appropriately reviewed and statutorily compliant
- Take all decisions relating to pay in accordance with the approved pay policy
- Ensure the Academy is adhering to correct procedures in terms of performance management and to award pay progression of the Principal and Senior Leadership team
- Review staff absence policy procedure and receive reports on long term and persistent absence issues
- Appoint an external advisor for the Principals' performance management
- Review the organisational structure of the school on an annual basis and recommend the annual pay budget, including pay progression to the Governing Body
- Ensure that pay decisions are fair and equitable

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Principal is an active member of the Gloucestershire Association of Secondary Headteachers (GASH) through which best practice is shared with other schools and issues facing education at a local, regional and national level are discussed. As part of GASH, The Cotswold School Academy also supports teacher trainees through their NQT year and throughout their teaching career. The Cotswold School Academy also independently provides focused support to secondary schools actively seeking to improve their teaching standards.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

The Cotswold School Academy places great importance on working closely with its feeder primary schools. Staff from The Cotswold School Academy regularly visit local primaries to teach and share best practice. In non-pandemic years, classes from local primary schools also regularly visit The Cotswold School Academy to take part in Science, Maths, English and Physical Education activities. These reciprocal visits both strengthen links and help towards a smooth transition of pupils from primary to secondary level, with Year 7's quickly settling into The Cotswold Academy and achieving in lessons

Trade Union Facilities Time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, where an academy trust has more than 49 full time equivalent employees throughout any 7 months within the reporting period, it must include information included in Schedule 2 of the Regulations. The information to be published consists of three tables covering:

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
1	1

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	1
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time	£0
Provide the total pay bill	£7.873m
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) × 100	0%
Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) × 100	0%

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The sole activity of the Academy is to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 11 and 19.

The Academy's main aim is to raise the standard of educational achievement of all pupils and to ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resources, tuition and care. This is underpinned by strong leadership and management that aims to:

- Set realistic educational targets that maintain and develop the Academy's excellent academic progress, and ensure that those targets are met;
- Improve the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- Provide a sustainable programme of curriculum enrichment for the education of all pupils and comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
- Establish and maintain procedures for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the quality of learning, teaching, pupil development and achievement;
- Conduct Academy business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness;
- Provide value for money for the funds expended;
- Review policies regularly in accordance with legislative requirements; and
- Ensure that Academy policies and local/national regulatory requirements for premises, health and safety and well-being of staff and pupils are met.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Academy has clear targets and strategies which flow from the Self Evaluation Form (SEF) and form the School Development Plan for year school year (SDP). This plan drives the key objectives for the school and for which the senior leadership team are held accountable. The key objectives from the Academy Development Plan for the Years 2022-2023 were:

1. Teaching of and provision for students with SEND
2. Consistency of behaviour management at all times of the school day
3. Use of tutor time to enhance PHSE, literacy and numeracy
4. Provision of extra-curricular and cultural capital opportunities for all
5. To focus upon pupil and staff well-being

Public Benefit

As a non-selective state secondary Academy, The Academy's work is, by its very nature, to the public benefit. The Academy offers a broad curriculum to pupils of all abilities aged from 11-19 who come from varied socio-economic backgrounds in a semi-rural catchment area. Parochial care and attention to special needs are an important part of the Academy's ethos to promote the individual in a caring environment.

Furthermore, the Trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit beyond the provision of secondary education. It conducts its business with great consideration to its neighbours. There is a strong policy to promote public use of its buildings and land for clubs, sport, and tuition to the benefit of the community. When converting to Academy status, the Academy has taken on a formal policy of community cohesion. The Academy works to promote community use and the Premises Committee oversees and agrees strategies for development.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Accolades

The Cotswold School is the comprehensive school of the year in the South West, according to the Sunday Times 'Parent Power' survey, 2023, which used exam results information from 2021/22 to rank schools nationally.

The Cotswold School provides an outstanding education as demonstrated by:

- Rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in four consecutive inspections.
- Awarded the International Schools Award 2019-22 by The British Council
- Membership of the National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE), which benefits every student, regardless of ability
- The Cotswold School's outstanding GCSE and A'level results

The Cotswold School has also just been appointed as a Lead School delivering the DfE's national Foreign Language Hub programme. The programme is aimed at strengthening and expanding the languages offer, enabling more effective transition from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, as well as ensuring that more pupils aged 14 to 18 from all backgrounds have the opportunity to study languages through to Key Stage 5.

To ensure focus is maintained on achievement and performance, the Academy's Trustees regularly inspect self-evaluation reports carried out by the Principal and Senior Leadership Team throughout the year. This ensures rigorous standards are maintained and built upon while the objectives in the Academy Development Plan are kept constantly in focus. The school is proud to remain an outstanding school with examination results that consistently place The Cotswold School in the top three comprehensive schools in Gloucestershire.

Examination Results 2023

In 2023, students at The Cotswold School once again achieved an outstanding set of exam results at both GCSE and A-level. This year saw exam boards return grading standards to pre-pandemic levels, resulting in a nationwide reduction in the numbers of top grades awarded. Our school bucked this trend, with our key measures exceeding our pre-pandemic 2019 outcomes. Our results were once again on a par with grammar and independent schools; The Cotswold School remains one of the very best in the country.

A level achievements in 2023 were above the national average with:

- 35% of grades were awarded at A* or A (average in South West was 26%)
- 62% were awarded at A* to B
- 86% were awarded at A* to C (England average, 75%)
- 20% of Year 13 achieved three or more grades at A* or A
- Average points score per A-Level entry, 38.60

Destinations for our Year 13 students include apprenticeships and employment and universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Bath, Exeter, St Andrews, Leeds, Imperial College London, University College London, Manchester, Newcastle and Camberwell College of Arts.

2023 GCSE results are equally outstanding:

- 37% of grades were awarded at 7-9. This is 14% higher than the national average and exceeded our 2019 results by 2%
- 88% of grades across all subjects were above Grade 4, which is 18% over the national average. It also matches our 2022 score and was 3% higher than in 2019.
- 82% of students achieved five or more Grades 4-9, including Mathematics and English. Again this mirrors our 2022 results and was 2% higher than in 2019.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Enrichment and development

The Cotswold School Academy vision is the pursuit of academic excellence and the personal development of each individual within a caring community. The Academy has a broad, holistic approach to education and pupils are encouraged to broaden their educational experience, preparing them for the wider world.

As a result of the pandemic over the last 2 academic years, there have been limited trips and extra-curricular activities. This school development plan for 2022-23 focused on bringing back the extensive programme of extra-curricular activities that are so important in enriching our pupils' secondary school experience. Pupils took part in numerous clubs including cookery, speech and debate, dance and gymnastics, a wide variety of sports, philosophy, STEM, BBC School Report, student book club, instrument and singing lessons, Duke of Edinburgh awards, choir, music ensembles, performing arts and school productions and more. Participation in extra-curricular activities was tracked for each pupil and shared with parents in regular school reports.

Pupils of all age groups can also take part in local, regional and national competitions and workshops in robotics, debate, art, media, music, drama, science and engineering, mathematics, food and design technology and sports. Pupils recognised as 'gifted and talented' are further encouraged to take part in a variety of special clubs, run after Academy hours, that will challenge and extend their learning.

Supported by their teachers and an enriched curriculum, students excel. Examples include: winners at Club, District and Regional levels of Rotary International Competitions for Young Chefs, Young Photographers, Young Artists and Young Writers; and further superb performances at regional Maths Challenges, philosophical debates, music competitions and Science and STEM events.

The Academy also builds upon its local business network to benefit students. Drawing from its network, the Academy hosts increasingly well-attended careers evenings with a variety of industries represented. Local businesses regularly contribute their time and expertise as guest speakers and, with increasing regularity, approach the Careers Coordinator with apprenticeship and employment opportunities for Academy leavers.

The school also offers a broad range of extra-curricular trips, both local and international, supporting knowledge and enrichment in sport, culture, history, art, design, business, IT, languages and geography, as well as for personal growth and an improved understanding of the world.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Financial Review

The Cotswold School Academy had total incoming cash resources for the year of £9.541m (2022 £8.684m) and total cash resources expended of £9.538m (2022: £8.405m) giving a net gain of £3k (2022: £279k) before taking into account non-cash movement.

The Cotswold School Academy had an actuarial gain of £331k (after asset ceiling adjustment detailed in note 26) less interest charges of £63k on the defined benefit pension scheme and a depreciation charge of £639k.

The total incoming resources and expenditure including non-cash items was £9.731m and £9.909m respectively giving a deficit of £178k (2022: surplus £9.183m). Included in the surplus is a cash outflow of £104k (2022: outflow £160k) after capital spend on fixed assets.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Income

As a 'Converter' Academy the main funds 'General Annual Grant' were received via the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Other funds have been received from Gloucestershire County Council (as the Local Authority). The Cotswold School Academy is fortunate to have stable pupil numbers, although we are forecasting a drop in pupil numbers in 2025-26 which mirrors the national picture across schools.

The Cotswold School remains one of the lowest funded schools in one of the lowest funded Local Authorities. The recent under funding of teacher pay awards in 2022-23 and 2023-24 has meant more cuts are needed to reach a balanced budget. The current funding levels are insufficient to cover wage, utility and general cost pressures. According to the IFS (Institute for Fiscal Studies) school spending per pupil in 2024 will remain 3% below 2010 levels in real-terms once you account for actual costs faced by schools. The Cotswold School Academy continues to work hard at generating additional funding, through grants, sponsorship and donations whilst exercising very tight fiscal control. Three year forecasts are regularly reviewed and contingency plans to reduce staff costs being implemented in order to balance the books.

Expenditure

The largest expenditure is staff cost. The teacher and support staffing structure has grown with the additional 1 form entry and the school PAN growing from 220 to 250. Staff numbers have increased from 143.98 FTE as at 31st August 2022 compared to 147.33 FTE as at 31st August 2023. The staffing structure continues to reflect the Academy's strategy of maintaining a good balance of mature and newly qualified staff.

The total salary cost for the year was £7.824m (excluding the pension charge of £63k), an increase of 10% on prior year (2022: £7.110m excluding a pension charge of £503k). This is due to the additional staff, as well as a pay award for support staff of between 5% and 11% from April 2023, a teacher pay award averaging 6% and spine point increases.

Reserves Policy

The policy of the Academy is to carry forward a level of resources designed to meet the long-term cyclical needs of renewal and any other unforeseen contingencies, subject to the constraint that the level of resources does not exceed the level permitted by the Department for Education. The school's policy is to hold a minimum of £400k in reserves (excluding the fixed asset reserves). This policy is reviewed every year.

During the year the Governors approved spend of £133k from reserves to fund various refurbishment works across the school, including external works, a new IT suite and additional IT and other refurbishment works.

The Cotswold School Academy reserves stand at £24.412m (2022: £24,590). This includes unrestricted funds of £282k (2022: £172k) and restricted funds of £457k (2022: £692k). Due to the lower than inflation funding announced for 2024-25, the Governors have no plans for further capital spend.

The pension reserve shows a net surplus of £353k at 31 August 2023 (2022: net liability of £268k). As the Academy has no unconditional right to a refund from the LGPS, the value of the surplus that can be recognised as an asset is limited to the "asset ceiling". This is the present value of any benefit in the form of reductions in future contributions. The actuarial report calculates our asset ceiling as £Nil.

The Academy will continue to make contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) with actuarial advice and has no plans to increase or decrease the contributions above or below the recommended level.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Investment Policy

Trustees have agreed a policy for investment of balances. The strategy is to regularly monitor cash flow and current account balances to ensure immediate financial commitments can be met and that the current account has adequate balances to meet forthcoming commitments. The Academy will seek to avoid its current account going overdrawn. It will identify funds surplus to immediate cash requirements and transfer to a Deposit Account bearing a higher interest rate. The school will periodically review interest rates and compare with other investment opportunities. The Academy's current policy is only to invest in risk free UK banks.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees of The Cotswold School Academy Trust have a Risk Assessment Policy in force. This has identified Strategic, Operational, Regulatory and Financial risks. Likelihood and impact of the risks have been assessed and methods of avoiding, transferring and mitigating these have been taken into consideration. Principal risks identified are those which affect the running of the Academy e.g. fire, flood, storm and major incident. It also includes those which affect the financial aspect of the Academy e.g. loss of reputation affecting pupil numbers on roll, and possible fraud.

The Trustees regularly review and assess the management of the schools' estate, including monitoring accidents and near misses, health and safety actions, compliance and statutory checks, planned and preventative maintenance schedules and condition reports. This information feeds into the Premises Development Plan and identifies risks associated with the school estate that might impact teaching and learning, finances and health and safety.

Fundraising

The Cotswold School Academy supports fundraising efforts that support the Academy Development Plan and any pupil led fundraising events that support external charities.

The School works with the Cotswold School PTA as the main avenue to generate funds for the School. The Cotswold School PTA is its own legal entity with charitable status and funds are held separate to the school. The approach taken by the PTA is to raise funds through events and sales, not through individual donations.

The School separately raises funds through various events, local business sponsorship and individual donations to support our nominated external charities and for teaching and learning resources for the School. Parents are asked for voluntary donations on a very infrequent basis, usually once in any year, to ensure no parent feels pressured into donating.

The School does not work with any commercial participators or professional fundraisers to raise funds but organises all events through its staff and volunteers. Car parking for tourists on the school field remains a key fundraising activity. All funds raised and associated expenditure is overseen by the Finance department and Senior Leadership Team, reported on separately in the management accounts and reviewed by the Governors.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Plans for Future Periods

The Academy Development Plan outlines current objectives and targets that will ensure the school continues to deliver an excellent education and broad curriculum for its pupils in the next academic year. The key objectives from the Academy Development Plan for the Years 2023-2024 are:

1. Assessment – consistently and effectively used in each subject by staff and students.
2. Behaviour – Rewards and sanctions consistently applied.
3. SEND – In and out of the classroom, meeting the needs of all.
4. Attendance returned to pre-covid levels.
5. Inclusion for all in the curriculum and in the wider offer of the school

The Trustees' Premises Development Plan is maintained as a working document and aids decision making with regard to prioritising future projects and developments, ensuring the school provides the right environment for learning. This is becoming increasingly more important as the school roll grows each year.

Refurbishment projects undertaken in August 2023 included the relocation and centralisation of student support services, improvement works in the 6th form, external landscaping and additional IT provided in key classrooms.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on **4th December 2023** and signed on the board's behalf by:



Andrew Parker

Trustee

Date: 04-12-2023

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

As Trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Cotswold School Academy Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Cotswold School Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met six times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr A Parker	5	6
Mrs R Havill	6	6
Mr W Morgan	6	6
Dr R Emsley	4	4
Dr G Hadley	4	6
Mrs K Scott	1	6
Mrs J Birrell	5	6
Mr D Souch	5	6
Mrs F Peake	5	6
Mr B Backhouse	6	6
Mrs F Heming	5	6
Ms C Lamb	6	6
Mrs L Morrison	6	6
Mr N Hartnell	5	6
Mr Andrew Burgess	2	3
Mr John Evanson	3	3
Mrs Jo Griffin	4	5

The Board delegates certain responsibilities to sub-committees that regularly meet in order to discharge their responsibilities. A programme of work is agreed in the first Board of Trustees meeting in the academic year that ensures there is robust governance and effective management arrangements. This also ensures timely reporting into the main Board of Trustees meetings. These meetings take place at least 6 times a year.

Conflicts of interest

All Trustees are required to declare any business interests that might constitute a conflicts of interest with their roles as Trustee. Trustees are reminded of their duty to declare any new conflicts of interest at the start of each Full Governing Body meeting. The clerk to Governors maintains an up-to-date and complete register of interests. Where a conflict of interest exists, a Governor will be asked to leave the meeting during discussions and will be required to abstain from any votes.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

The Finance, Audit and Premises Committee is one of the sub-committees of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the Board of Trustees, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Board of Trustees' responsibility to ensure sound management of the Academy's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Committee makes appropriate comments and recommendations on such matters to the Board of Trustees on a regular basis. Major issues are referred to the full board for ratification.

The Finance Committee met five times in the year. Attendance at the meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Dr R Emsley	3	5
Mr W Morgan	5	5
Mr A Parker	5	5
Mr D Souch	3	5
Mr B Backhouse	4	5
Mr Nicholas Hartnell	5	5

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer the Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year demonstrated by achieving exceptional exam results (above national average and pre-covid levels) whilst also delivering a balanced budget.

The Accounting Officer works closely with the Chief Financial Officer and the leadership team to ensure that Trustees have a clear and transparent view of our finances and how we are achieving value for money. This includes continually reviewing and balancing short term budget requirements with a long term strategic plan reflecting pupil numbers, revenue and capital spend requirements and funding expectations. Capital spend requirements are driven from our premises management documents that consider the condition of our estate (structural, mechanical and electrical) and identifies work required to keep the school safe, well maintained and compliant with statute and best practice.

The Cotswold School Academy also uses national benchmarking data and the DfE "view my financial insights" tool to provide Trustees with independent data to measure the school's performance.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

The system of internal control has been in place in The Cotswold School Academy Trust for the period to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- regular reviews by the Finance Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees considered the need for a specific internal audit function and decided not to appoint an internal auditor. The Trustees appointed Mrs Kate Franklin (CFO at Cleeve School) to undertake an independent peer review and audit on the operation of the systems of control.

The reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. As part of the review process, sample transactions were tested to ensure processes and procedures used to control the following areas were in line with best practice:

- Accounts and Reconciliation
- Risk Management
- Purchasing
- Income
- Payroll
- Bank Accounts
- Management of Data
- Reporting and VAT returns
- Corporate Governance

The reviewer reports to the board of trustees, through the audit committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and prepares an annual

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The report for the year ended 31st August 2023 concluded, and reported to the Board of Trustees, that its financial controls and risk management procedures are operating effectively.

We confirm that the internal audit review has been delivered in line with the ESFA's requirements.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

the work of the peer reviewer

the work of the external auditor

the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance and Audit Committee and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on **4th December 2023** and signed on its behalf by:



Andrew Parker
Trustee



Will Morgan
Accounting Officer

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of The Cotswold School Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and ESFA.



Will Morgan

Accounting Officer

Date: 04-12-2023

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who act as governors of The Cotswold School Academy Trust and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

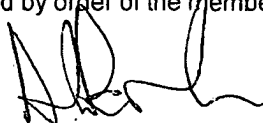
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency and Department for Education have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on **4th December 2023** and signed on its behalf by:



Andrew Parker

Trustee

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Cotswold School Academy Trust for the year ended 31st August 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Cotswold School Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Reference and Administrative details, Trustees' Report and the Governance Statement, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Cotswold School Academy Trust for the year ended 31st August 2023 (continued)

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the academy trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the academy trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Cotswold School Academy Trust for the year ended 31st August 2023 (continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the company financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the company. We determined that the most significant laws and regulations included UKGAAP, UK Companies Act 2006 and taxation laws;
- We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in its significant accounting estimates and identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual characteristics.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the academy trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the academy trust to cease to continue as a going concern.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

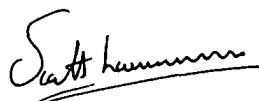
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Cotswold School Academy Trust for the year ended 31st August 2023 (continued)

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the academy trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the academy trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the academy trust and the academy trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....
Scott Lawrence FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Hazlewoods LLP, Statutory Auditor, Cheltenham

15/12/2023
Date.....

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Cotswold School Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 28 July 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies: Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Cotswold School Academy Trust during year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to The Cotswold School Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the The Cotswold School Academy Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Cotswold School Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Cotswold School Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and the Reporting Accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Cotswold School Academy Trust funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 November 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies: Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the academy trust's income and expenditure.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

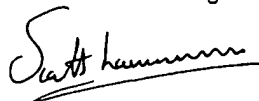
Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Cotswold School Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

In this regard, we have carried out the following:

- specific testing of a sample of items of income and expenditure to ensure appropriately applied for the purposes intended;
- specific testing of a sample of system controls relevant to the above items;
- a general review of relevant correspondence with the ESFA regarding Academy governance matters during the period since conversion; and
- a general review and discussion of the Academy's internal processes for establishing and maintaining systems of control and documentation regarding these matters.

Conclusion

In the course of our work nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



.....
Scott Lawrence FCA DChA (Reporting Accountant)

15/12/2023

.....
Date

For and on behalf of Hazlewoods LLP,
Statutory Auditor
Staverton Court
Staverton
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 0UX

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023

(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	36	13	190	239	5,730
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations	3	762	8,638	-	9,400	8,571
Other trading activities	4	85	-	-	85	49
Investments	5	7	-	-	7	1
Total		890	8,651	190	9,731	14,351
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy Trust's educational operations	6	652	8,949	639	10,240	9,443
Total		652	8,949	639	10,240	9,443
Net income / (expenditure)		238	(298)	(449)	(509)	4,908
Transfers between funds	16	(128)	-	128	-	-
Other recognised gains:						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	331	-	331	4,275
Net movement in funds		110	33	(321)	(178)	9,183
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		172	424	23,994	24,590	15,407
Total funds carried forward		282	457	23,673	24,412	24,590

The notes on pages 29 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

Company Number 07338767

	Notes	2023 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000	2022 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		23,673		23,994
Current assets					
Stock	12	11		4	
Debtors	13	302		309	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,310</u>		<u>1,414</u>	
		1,623		1,727	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(798)</u>		<u>(756)</u>	
Net current assets			825		971
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>24,498</u>		<u>24,965</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(86)		(107)
Net Assets excluding pension liability			<u>24,412</u>		<u>24,858</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26		-		(268)
Total net assets			<u>24,412</u>		<u>24,590</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	16	23,673		23,994	
Restricted income funds		457		692	
Pension reserve	16	<u>-</u>		<u>(268)</u>	
Total restricted funds			24,130		24,418
Unrestricted income funds	16		<u>282</u>		<u>172</u>
Total funds			<u>24,412</u>		<u>24,590</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 4th December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Parker



Trustee

The notes on pages 29 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	20	17	230
Cash flows from investing activities	21	7	1
Cash flows from financing activities	22	(128)	(391)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(104)	(160)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022		1,414	1,574
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023	23	1,310	1,414

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

1 Statement of accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Going Concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the Academy Trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

- **Grants**

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

- **Sponsorship Income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

- **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

- **Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by The Cotswold School Academy; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

- **Other Income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the Academy Trust has provided the goods or services.

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

- **Donated fixed assets**

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy Trust's accounting policies.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

- **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Academy Trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

- **Charitable Activities**

These are costs incurred on the Academy Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Academy Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

• Freehold buildings	2%
• Temporary buildings	4%
• Fixtures, fittings and equipment	10-25%
• Office Equipment	25%
• Motor vehicles	25%

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Academy Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Financial Instruments

The academy only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Leased Assets

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

Pensions Benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 24, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy Trust at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency).

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The Academy Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Agency Arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 29.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Capital grants and S106 monies	-	190	190	5,647
Donations and Voluntary Funds	36	13	39	20
Other donations	-	-	-	63
	<u>36</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>5,730</u>

In 2022, of the total income from donations and capital grants, £59k was to unrestricted funds and £5,671k was to restricted funds.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
DfE / ESFA grants				
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,523	7,523	7,269
. Pupil Premium	-	172	172	156
. Supplementary Funding	-	194	194	81
. Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	96	96	-
. Other ESFA grants	-	-	-	-
- Teachers Pay Grant	-	-	-	19
- Teachers Pension Grant	-	56	56	56
- Rates Relief	-	44	44	37
- Sixth Form Bursary	-	27	27	17
- Other ESFA grants	-	18	18	6
		8,130	8,130	7,641
Other Government grants				
. Local authority grants	-	406	406	300
. Special educational projects	-	36	36	57
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Recovery premium	-	42	42	21
School Led Tutoring	-	24	24	21
Other covid funding	-	-	-	20
	-	508	508	419
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations:				
. School trip income	448	-	448	195
. Sale of school meals	229	-	229	236
. Music tuition income	85	-	85	80
	762	8,638	9,400	8,571

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Rental Income	37	-	37	30
Consultancy to other schools	48	-	48	19
	<u>85</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>49</u>

In 2022, of the total income from other trading activities, £49k was to unrestricted funds.

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Short term deposits	7	-	7	1
	<u>7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>

In 2022, of the total income from investments, £1k was to unrestricted funds.

6 Expenditure

	Staff Costs £000	Non Pay Expenditure		Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
		Premises £000	Other £000		
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	6,782	639	857	8,278	7,265
Allocated support costs	1,105	385	472	1,962	2,178
	<u>7,887</u>	<u>1,024</u>	<u>1,329</u>	<u>10,240</u>	<u>9,443</u>

In 2023, of the total expenditure £652k (2022: £561k) was to unrestricted funds and £9.588m (2022: £8.882m) was to restricted funds.

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Operating Lease Rentals	23	21
Depreciation	639	535
Fees payable to auditor for: - audit	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

7 Charitable activities

	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Direct Costs – educational operations	8,278	7,265
Support costs – educational operations	1,962	2,178
Total costs	10,240	9,443

Direct costs	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Teaching and educational support staff	6,782	6,154
Depreciation	639	535
Educational supplies	186	134
Educational activities	432	202
Technology	17	6
Exam fees	165	155
Staff development	26	36
Other	31	43
Total support costs	8,278	7,265

Support costs	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Support staff costs	1,042	944
Pension costs (FRS102 adjustment)	63	503
Technology	126	97
Premises costs	385	303
Other support costs	333	318
Governance costs	13	13
Total support costs	1,962	2,178

During the year ended 31 August 2023 the academy incurred £13k (2022: £13k) of Governance costs which are included in the table above.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

8 Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Wages and salaries	5,869	5,316
Social security costs	574	528
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	1,361	1,254
Pension costs (FRS102 adjustment)	63	503
Apprenticeship levy	14	12
Staff restructuring costs	6	-
	<u>7,887</u>	<u>7,613</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	6	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>

b. Severance payments

The academy trust paid 1 severance payments in the year (2022, nil)

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£0 - £25,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

c. Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs is one special severance payments totalling £6,535 (2022: £nil).

d. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the academy during the period was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	102	98
Administration and support	90	81
Management	6	6
	<u>198</u>	<u>185</u>

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

e. Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	6	5
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1
£120,000 - £130,000	1	-

The above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2023, pension contributions for these members of staff amounted to £141k (2022: £119k).

f. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £726k (2022: £694k).

9 Related Party Transactions – Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration or reimbursed expenses in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments from the Academy in respect of their roles as Trustees.

The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

Principal and trustee:

Remuneration £120,000 - £130,000 (2022: £110,000 - £120,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid ££25,000 - £30,000 (2022: £25,000 - £30,000)

Staff trustee:

Remuneration £50,000 - £60,000 (2022: £40,000 - £50,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid ££10,000 - £15,000 (2022: £10,000 - £15,000)

Staff trustee:

Remuneration £20,000 - £25,000 (2022: £15,000 - £20,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid ££0 - £5,000 (2022: £0 - £5,000)

During the period ended 31 August 2023, trustees received reimbursed expenses of £0 (2022: £0).

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

10 Trustees and officers insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim. The cost for the period ended 31 August 2023 was included within the cost of Department for Education's risk protection arrangement. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings £000	Assets under Construction £000	School Equipment £000	Office Equipmen t £000	Motor Vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	26,505	46	742	596	67	27,956
Additions	215	26	40	37	-	318
Transfer from assets under construction	46	(46)	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	26,766	26	782	633	67	28,274
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	3,175	-	436	292	59	3,962
Charged in year	440	-	93	104	2	639
At 31 August 2023	3,615	-	529	396	61	4,601
Net book values						
At 31 August 2022	23,330	46	306	304	8	23,994
At 31 August 2023	23,151	26	253	237	6	23,673

The trust's transactions relating to land and buildings included the completion and handover of the a ten classroom block, expanded sports hall facilities and two classrooms converted to science laboratories. The work was funded by the Local Authority using growth funds to enable the school to take an additional form entry. The school increased its PAN to 250 as a result of the expansion works. The school also used unrestricted reserves to fund continued refurbishment works across the school, that include a new canopy, external landscaping and 2 new IT suites. There was also various re-modelling works to upgrade department areas to allow departments to resuite following the handover of the new 10 classroom block.

12 Stock

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Catering	6	4
School Uniform	5	-
	11	4

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

13 Debtors

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Trade debtors	5	4
VAT recoverable	29	31
Prepayments and accrued income	268	274
	302	309

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Trade creditors	55	56
Loan	21	21
Accruals	420	383
Deferred income	302	296
	798	756

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	296	419
Released from previous years	(296)	(416)
Resources deferred in the year	302	296
Deferred Income at 31 August 2023	302	296

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance of £31k for music tuition fees, £30k for ESFA GAG rates relief, £18k for the 6th form bursary and £17k of high needs funding, £46k for the CIF grants from GCC and £160k for school trips.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Loans	86	107

A loan of £148k from Salix which is provided based on a repayment of £11k every six months deducted at source from the ESFA GAG remittance.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses and transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	692	8,024	(8,259)	-	457
Pupil Premium	-	172	(172)	-	-
Other grants and donations	-	455	(455)	-	-
Pension reserve	(268)	-	(63)	331	-
	424	8,651	(8,949)	331	457
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA/Other capital grants	7,230	170	(639)	128	6,889
Capital donations on conversion	16,764	20	-	-	16,784
	23,994	190	(639)	128	23,673
Total restricted funds	24,418	8,841	(9,588)	459	24,130
Total unrestricted funds	172	890	(652)	(128)	282
Total funds	24,590	9,731	(10,240)	331	24,412

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Restricted General Funds: ESFA Grants (including GAG) are used to meet the cost of running the Academy. Under the Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State and guidance within the Academy Trust Handbook, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit of the amount of GAG that it could carry forward as at 31 August 2023.

Other funds include pupil premium and other donations which are to be spent on various restricted purposes as detailed in the Conditions of Grant and instructions from the donors. The Local Government Pension Scheme liability is also included within this fund and further information can be found in note 25 of the financial statements regarding this balance.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds: These funds relate to the land, buildings and other fixed assets which are owned by the Academy and used in accordance with the charitable objectives.

Unrestricted Funds: Represents income generated by the Academy (such as lettings and hire of the facilities) and any other donations or investment income, which is not restricted for any specific purpose and can be spent as determined by the Governing Body.

Transfers between funds relate to unrestricted funds used to cover revenue expenditure in the year and a revenue transfer to the Restricted Fixed Asset fund to cover capital expenditure in the current and previous years.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

16 Funds (continued)

Comparatives information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses and transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	472	7,285	(7,065)	-	692
Pupil Premium	-	156	(156)	-	-
Other grants and donations	-	623	(623)	-	-
Pension reserve	(4,040)	-	(503)	4,275	(268)
	(3,568)	8,064	(8,347)	4,275	424
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA/Other capital grants	1,707	5,667	(535)	391	7,230
Capital donations on conversion	16,764	-	-	-	16,764
	18,471	5,667	(535)	391	23,994
Total restricted funds	14,903	13,731	(8,882)	4,666	24,418
Total unrestricted funds	504	620	(561)	(391)	172
Total funds	15,407	14,351	(9,443)	4,275	24,590

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Restricted General Funds: ESFA Grants (including GAG) are used to meet the cost of running the Academy. Under the Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State and guidance within the Academy Trust Handbook, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit of the amount of GAG that it could carry forward as at 31 August 2022.

Other funds include pupil premium and other donations which are to be spent on various restricted purposes as detailed in the Conditions of Grant and instructions from the donors. The Local Government Pension Scheme liability is also included within this fund and further information can be found in note 25 of the financial statements regarding this balance.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds: These funds relate to the land, buildings and other fixed assets which are owned by the Academy and used in accordance with the charitable objectives.

Unrestricted Funds: Represents income generated by the Academy (such as lettings and hire of the facilities) and any other donations or investment income, which is not restricted for any specific purpose and can be spent as determined by the Governing Body.

Transfers between funds relate to unrestricted funds used to cover revenue expenditure in the year and a revenue transfer to the Restricted Fixed Asset fund to cover capital expenditure in the current and previous years.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Fund £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £000	Restricted Income Fund £000	Pension Reserve Fund £000	Total Funds 2023 £000
Tangible fixed assets		23,673		-	23,673
Current assets	473	-	1,150	-	1,623
Current liabilities	(191)	-	(693)	-	(884)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	282	23,673	457	-	24,412

Comparatives information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Unrestricted Fund £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £000	Restricted Income Fund £000	Pension Reserve Fund £000	Total Funds 2022 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	23,994	-	-	23,994
Current assets	332	-	1,395	-	1,727
Current liabilities	(160)	-	(703)	-	(863)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	(268)	(268)
Total net assets	172	23,994	692	(268)	24,590

18 Capital commitments

At 31 August 2023 the Academy had £nil capital commitments (2022: £nil).

19 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Amounts due within one year	22	25
Amounts due between one and five years	61	63
Amounts due in more than five years	-	20
	83	108

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

20 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Net incoming resource	(509)	4,908
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 11)	639	535
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(190)	(5,667)
Interest receivable (note 5)	(7)	(1)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost	63	503
Increase in stock	(7)	-
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	7	83
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	21	(131)
Net cash used in Operating Activities	17	230

21 Cash flows from investments

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Interest received	7	1
Net cash inflow on investments and service of finance	7	1

22 Capital expenditure and financial investment

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(318)	(841)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	133	410
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	57	40
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities	(128)	(391)

23 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	890	901
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	420	513
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,310	1,414

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

24 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 30 September 2022 £	Cash Flows 2023 £	New Finance Leases 2023 £	Other Non-cash Changes 2023 £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash	1,414	(104)	-	-	1,310
	<u>1,414</u>	<u>(104)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,310</u>

25 Members liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

26 Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Gloucestershire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £1,348k (2022: £905k), at the year-end £111k (2022: £105k) was accrued in respect of the contributions to this scheme.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary – these contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%.

The assumed valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024

The TPS valuation for 2012 determined an employer rate of 16.4%, which was payable from September 2015. The latest valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme has now taken place, in line with directions issued by HM Treasury and using membership data as at 31 March 2016. As a result of this valuation, TPS employers will pay an increased contribution rate of 23.6% from September 2019 (plus an administration levy of 0.08%).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pensions website](#).

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is a multi-employer pension scheme. The trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £493k (2022: £430k), of which employer's contributions totalled £393k (2022: £333k) and employees' contributions totalled £100k (2022: £88k). The agreed contribution rates for employers for future years are yet to be published (the rate for 2022 was 26.3%) and at an average of 5.8% (2022: 6.2%) for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK..

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	3.5%	3.35%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.0%	3.05%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.2%	4.25%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.0%	3.05%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00%	68.00%

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Retiring today		
Males	21.4	21.7
Females	24.5	24.1
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.2	22.6
Females	26.0	25.8

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £000	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £000
Equity instruments	4,114	3,966
Government bonds	1,329	1,108
Cash	127	117
Property	759	641
Total market value of assets	6,329	5,832
Present value of scheme liabilities	(5,976)	(6,100)
Asset ceiling adjustment	(353)	-
Surplus / (Deficit) on the scheme	-	(268)

The actuary's schedule of results valued the pension scheme in an asset position at the year end, however as this asset is unlikely to be realised, it has been reduced to £Nil by the above asset ceiling adjustment.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Current service cost	444	766
Past service cost	-	-
Interest cost	269	169
Expected return on plan assets	(257)	(99)
Employer contributions	(393)	(333)
Total amount charged to SOFA	63	503

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At 1 September	6,100	9,839
Current service cost	444	766
Past service cost	-	-
Interest cost	269	169
Employee contributions	100	88
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(758)	(4,683)
Benefits paid	(64)	(65)
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	(115)	(14)
At 31 August	5,976	6,100

Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At 1 September	5,832	5,799
Interest income	257	99
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(189)	(422)
Employer contributions	393	333
Employee contributions	100	88
Benefits paid	(64)	(65)
At 31 August	6,329	5,832

27 Current Liabilities

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) Equalisation is a requirement to equalise the Guaranteed Minimum Pension benefits accrued between 1990 and 1997 from contracting out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme based on the principles outlined in the judgement of the "Lloyds Bank" High Court case in October 2018. The actuarial valuation prepared for the Local Government Pension Scheme (as disclosed in Note 26) does not currently included an adjustment for GMP Equalisation, as the fund actuary considers that a 'trigger event' is yet to occur in the LGPS. The trigger event referred to in this instance is that Government are yet to confirm the long term solution and hence the potential impact of GMP equalisation remains an unknown. In view of this continuing uncertainty, no provision has been made in these financial statements in relation to this matter.

The Cotswold School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

28 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

29 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 Bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the Trust received £24k (2022: £21k) and disbursed £27k from the fund. An amount of £18k is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to the ESFA.